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RAMSEY  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH

UPON THE

SANITARY CONDITION of the DISTRICT

DURING THE YEAR 1940.





# TO THE RAMSEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



Mr. Chairman and Members of the Council.

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Sanitary Conditions of the District for the year ending 31st December, 1940.

The practice whereby the Report has been drawn up on the lines suggested by the Ministry of Health has been adhered to as in the previous year's issue.

The normal peace time work has been, as far as circumstances permitted, carried out as usual but in consequence of pressure of work arising from additional duties placed upon the Authority less time has been available to devote to it, and the routine work has been somewhat curtailed.

The decision of the Council towards the close of 1939 to make available to the public free immunisation against Diphtheria was a commendable action which proved to be anticipation of what was later recognised as a nation-wide requirement and undertaking.

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## STAFF :

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

D. S. BUCHANAN, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.

SANITARY INSPECTOR (PART TIME)

V. J. BATEMAN, A.R.San.I.

# STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	...	...	...	...	...	15,980 acres
						13,720 are Fen Land
Estimated Population (mid 1940)	...					5,618 X <i>14,000</i>
	(mid 1939)	...				5,382
Number of Inhabited Houses, end of 1940						1,528 X
Rateable Value	...	...	...			£17,423
Value of Penny Rate	...	...	...			£72 : 11 : 11

During the course of 1940 no radical change took place in the industry of the district, which is chiefly connected with agricultural activities.

## VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births.		Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	...	95	50	45
Illegitimate	...	Nil	Nil	Nil
Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population 16.9				

Still Births.		4	3	1
Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births 40.4				

Deaths.		76	55	21
Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population 13.5				
Death Rate adjusted 13.3				

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 & 30 of the Registrar General's Short List) :—

	Deaths	Rate per 1000 total (live & still births)
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis	—	—
No. 30 Other puerperal causes	—	—
Total :	nil	nil

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births ... ..	41.6
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	31.2
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	—
Deaths from Cancer (All ages) ... ..	13
Deaths from Measles (All ages) ... ..	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (All ages) ..	0
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years) ... ..	0

RATES.

	Per 1000 Population.			Per 1000 live births
	Live Births	Still Births	Death Rate	Infantile Mortality
Ramsey ... ..	16.9	0.71	13.3	41
England & Wales ...	14.6	0.55	14.3	55
London (Adm. County)	13.7	0.44	17.8	50
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London.	16.0	0.64	15.8	61
148 Small Towns ...	15.7	0.55	12.8	54

The following table shows the classification of deaths from all causes, Registrar General's figures.

Causes of Death.					M.	F.	Total
1.	Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers...				0	0	0
2.	Cerebro spinal fever	...	...	...	0	0	0
3.	Scarlet fever	...	...	...	0	0	0
4.	Whooping cough	...	..	...	0	0	0
5.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	0	0	0
6.	Tuberculosis of respiratory system				3	0	3
7.	Other form of tuberculosis	...			1	0	1
8.	Syphilitic diseases	...	...	...	2	0	2
9.	Influenza	...	...	...	1	0	1
10.	Measles	...	...	...	0	0	0
11.	Ac. Polio. myel and polio enceph.				0	0	0
12.	Ac. inf. encephalitis	.		...	0	0	0
13.	Cancer of buc. cav. & oesph & uterus				1	0	1
14.	Cancer of stomach and duodenum				4	1	5
15.	Cancer of breast	...	...	...	0	0	0
16.	Cancer of all other sites	...	...		7	0	7
17.	Diabetes	...	...	...	0	0	0
18.	Intra; cran vac. lesions	...	...		2	1	3
19.	Heart disease	...	...	...	17	10	27
20.	Other diseases of the circul. system				0	1	1
21.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	5	2	7
22.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	2	0	2
23.	Other respiratory diseases	...			2	1	3
24.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum...				0	0	0
25.	Diarrhœa under 2 years	..	...		0	0	0
26.	Appendicitis	...	...	...	0	0	0
27.	Other digestive diseases	...	...		0	1	1
28.	Nephritis	...	...	...	1	1	2
29.	Puerperal and post abort. sepsis...				0	0	0
30.	Other maternal causes	...	...		0	0	0
31.	Premature birth	...	...	...	0	0	0
32.	Con. mal ; birth inj ; infant dis.	...			0	1	1
33.	Suicide	...	...	...	1	0	1
34.	Road traffic accidents	...	...		0	1	1
35.	Other violent causes	...	...		1	0	1
36.	All other causes	...	...	...	5	1	6

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

### (a) Laboratory Facilities :

Bacteriological specimens from Practitioners in the district are examined and reported upon at the Pathological Department of the Memorial Hospital, Peterborough.

Under the Emergency Public Health Laboratory Scheme specimens may be sent for Bacteriological examination to the Pathological Laboratory, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.

### (b) Ambulance Facilities :

(1) For the removal of infectious cases a motor ambulance is available at the Isolation Hospital, Huntingdon.

(2) For non-infectious and accident cases ambulances are available at Peterborough, Huntingdon and Whittlesey. A further ambulance is now available to meet the requirements of the district by the provision of an ambulance, by the Hunts County Council. This ambulance is stationed at Stilton.

### (c) Nursing In The Home :

Nursing in the district is carried on by the Ramsey Nursing Association under the supervision of the County Council. Three nurses, who are qualified midwives, are employed; they carry out the general nursing in the district, and attend the majority of maternity cases and act as Health Visitors.

No provision is made for the home visiting of Measles, Whooping Cough and Infantile Diarrhoea.

All cases of Tuberculosis are visited by the Tuberculosis Health Visitor and a report with details of home conditions and circumstances is completed.

### (d) Clinics And Treatment Centres :

The Hunts County Council provide the following health services :-

School Clinic (Minor Ailments) - Town School Ramsey  
4th Thursday in each month at 10 a.m.

Eyes—Consultants Rooms. By Appointment.

Tuberculosis—T.M.O. By Appointment.

Orthopædic—Huntingdon Clinic by Appointment. 1st  
& 3rd Tuesday in each month at 11.30 a.m.

Infant Welfare—Wesleyan Schoolroom 4th Tuesday  
in each month at 2.30 p.m.

Nose, Throat & Ear Clinic—Memorial Hospital every  
Wednesday at 3 p.m. By Appointment

Venereal Diseases—28, Fitzwilliam St., Peterborough  
Men—Tuesday and Friday 6—8 p.m.  
Women—Tuesday & Friday 3-30—6 p.m.

Under the Ante and Post Natal Scheme, provided by the County Council, expectant mothers are examined twice during their pregnancy (or more often when necessary) and once after confinement.

**(e) Hospitals—Public and Voluntary :—**

(1) Fever—The treatment of infectious diseases is carried out at the Hospital for Infectious Diseases at Huntingdon, which is provided by the Joint Hospital Board.

(2) The Peterborough Memorial Hospital, the County Hospital, Huntingdon and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, continue to carry out the general hospital service in the district.

(3) **Maternity Hospital:—** Provision is made for the reception of all maternity cases occurring among evacuated women in the district in the Emergency Maternity Hospital established by the Huntingdon County Council at Paxton Park. Under special conditions resident women and also women not evacuated under the Government Evacuation Scheme are admitted to this hospital for their confinement.

The original provision in the hospital at the Huntingdon Institution, for cases in which home conditions are not suitable, is still available. In addition cases are still admitted to the Memorial Hospital, Peterborough, when complications make it necessary.



# **SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA**

## **WATER.**

Samples from the water supply are taken regularly and forwarded to the Emergency Public Health Laboratory at Cambridge for bacteriological analysis. All reports have been of a satisfactory nature with the exception of those samples taken at the terminus of the pipe line at Mereside.

## **DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.**

No alteration has been made to the septic tank system which deals with sewage before it enters the river. Although it is at present functioning in a satisfactory manner, it is working to full capacity and could not be expected to cope with any great additional volume of sewage.

## **PUBLIC CLEANSING.**

The existing arrangements have proved adequate and so far have met the requirements of the district. No alterations have been made during the past year.

## **HOUSING.**

As a result of the present day conditions, housing activities of any magnitude have been placed in abeyance. During the year two new houses were erected by the Sanitary Authority.

All complaints have been duly investigated and the appropriate action taken. On no occasion during the year was it found necessary to resort to legal action.

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# **INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD**

**MILK SUPPLY.**—There are 9 registered cowkeepers in the area and 18 inspections were made. Conditions are satisfactory and the quality of the milk is good.

**MEAT.**—There are 6 slaughterhouses in the district, all of which are licensed, but under the existing regulations of meat control these are not in use.

# TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

SIR.

I beg to submit my report for the year ending 31st December, 1940.

Total number of Inspections made	...	...	...	175
Total number of Notices served	...	...	...	3
( Informal 3 Statutory 0 )				
Complaints received ...	...	...	Total No. of	27
Premises, houses, etc.	...	...	No. inspected	26
			Nuisances abated	11
Pool, ditch, gutter, watercourse	...	...	No. inspected	10
			Nuisances abated	10
Animals improperly kept	...	...	No. inspected	0
			Nuisances abated	0
Privy, urinal, cesspool, ashpit	...	...	No. inspected	36
			Nuisances abated	36
Drain, Drain-traps, etc., etc.	...	...	No. inspected	27
			Nuisances abated	0
House, or part thereof, overcrowded			No. inspected	0
			Nuisances abated	0
Smoke nuisances	...	...	No. of observations	0
			Nuisances abated	0
Offensive accumulations	...	...	No. inspected	0
			Nuisances abated	0
Other sanitary conditions	...	...	No. inspected	85
			Nuisances abated	12
Slaughter houses	...	...	No. licensed	6
			No. of inspections	25
Offensive trades (Public Health Act 1936)			No. established ..	0
			No. of inspections	0
Public Health Act, 1936	...	...	No. houses condemned	0
			No. closed	0
			No. cleaned and limewashed...	0
			Houses affected with	9
			Houses inspected	9
			No. of inspections	9
			Houses disinfected	9
Infectious Disease	...	...	Schools	0
			Disinfectant used	so.2
			Lots of clothing	
			Disinfected	9
			Lots of clothing destroyed	0
Food—seizures of unwholesome			No. of	5

Privy Middens	...	...	...	<div> <div>{</div> <div> New provided ... 0  No. repaired ... 0  No. converted to pails 1  No. converted to W.C.'s 1 </div> </div>
Pail or earth closets	...	...	...	<div> <div>{</div> <div> New provided ... 6  No. converted to W.C.'s 4 </div> </div>
Water closets...	...	...	...	<div> <div>{</div> <div> New provided ... 4  No. supplied with water 4 </div> </div>
Ashpits	...	...	...	<div> <div>{</div> <div> New provided ... 0  No. converted to </div> </div>
Ashbins	...	...	...	<div> <div>{</div> <div> Ashbins ... 1  New provided ... 1 </div> </div>
				<div> <div>{</div> <div> Samples taken for analysis 52  Samples condemned 0  Wells closed ... 0  Wells cleansed, repaired, etc.... 0 </div> </div>
Water supply	...	...	...	<div> <div>{</div> <div> Public supply substituted for well or pond ... 0  Cisterns cleansed, repaired, covered 0  Waste pipes disconnected from drain 0 </div> </div>
Housing, Act 1936	...	...	...	<div> <div>{</div> <div> No. houses closed 0  ,, ,, made habitable 0  ,, ,, demolished 0 </div> </div>
Building Bye Laws adopted	...	...	...	15/12/39
Total Legal Proceedings, <i>i.e.</i> , Summonses, etc.	...	...	...	0
Convictions	..	...	...	0

#### FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1937.

Factories	...	...	...	...	Total number on register including bakehouses	17
					No. in which nuisances abated	0
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	No. on register	8
					No. in which nuisances abated	0
Home work	...	...	...	...	No. of outworkers	0
					No. of houses	0
					No. of infected houses	0
Legal proceedings, <i>i.e.</i> , Summonses, etc.	...	...	...	...		0
Convictions	...	...	...	...		0

V. J. BATEMAN. *Sanitary Inspector*

# PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

NOTIFIABLE.

There was no change during the year in the diseases compulsorily notifiable under the Notification Acts and Regulations. Measles was prevalent during the year and accounted for 40% of the total number of cases of infectious diseases, whilst Whooping Cough amounted to almost 25%.

NON NOTIFIABLE.

Scabies, a disease practically unknown in the district in normal times, made its appearance and affected chiefly the school children. It was undoubtedly introduced by the evacuees.

The following table gives the incidence of notifiable diseases (other than Tuberculosis) in the area during 1940.

[illegible]

## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Following the preparatory work in connection with a scheme for mass immunisation against diphtheria which was commenced towards the close of 1939, an intensive drive was commenced in the early part of 1940. Schools were used as enquiry bureaux and immunisation centres. The Head Teachers in the district willingly co-operated and gave all assistance within their power to make the scheme successful. Some difficulties were experienced while working in these school immunisation centres—buildings never intended for such work and consequently not equipped with the essentials for clinical work of this type. Most of these difficulties however had been anticipated and with some improvising were largely overcome. The prophylactic preparation used was Burroughs Wellcome A.P.T. The method adopted was an initial sensitising dose followed after an interval by the main injection.

The following table summarises the number of children treated up to the close of 1940 :-

	Resident Children		Evacuees	
	Complete	1st injection only	Complete	1st injection only
Over 5 years	483	18	156	8
Under 5 years	61	3	1	—

# TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non Respiratory		Respiratory		Non Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
35	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Total	4	—	1	—	3	—	—	—

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925 in connection with persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which deals with the Compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

D. S. BUCHANAN,

*Medical Officer of Health*



